AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of presenting information to a user in respect of a query, the method comprising~~the steps of~~:

(i) decoding the query into one or more semantically meaningful query elements;

(ii) accessing annotation elements stored in a first data store;

(iii) comparing a semantically meaningful query element from step (i) with the annotation elements so as to identify at least one annotation element that matches the semantically meaningful query element;

(iv) retrieving a plurality of data entries corresponding to the identified annotation element(s), each of the plurality being stored in a second data store; ~~and~~

(v) presenting the plurality of retrieved data entries to the user~~characterised by presenting the retrieved data entries~~ in accordance with at least one of a number of templates , which give an ordering for the entries on the basis of their respective annotation elements, and which are classified according to the type of entity to be described.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ordering of the data entries also depends upon discourse criteria and preferences of the user~~are stored as templates, each of which gives a default ordering for presentation of the data entries~~.

3 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 including the step of monitoring and storing the queries entered by the user.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein the preferences of the user are identified from the said stored queries entered by the user.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the annotation elements are arranged in accordance with semantic relationships between annotation elements, or lexical relationships between annotation elements.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, in which said comparison step (iii) includes the steps of:

inputting a semantically meaningful query element into a predetermined rule;

inputting an annotation into the predetermined rule; and

processing the rule.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~analysing~~analyzing the query so as to extract:

a subject of the query;

a property of the query;

retrieving at least one ~~or more~~ predetermined set~~s~~ of queries and responses from a further data store, each of which set has at least one property and at least one subject identifier;

comparing the extracted subject and property information ~~extracted at step (a)~~ with the retrieved property or properties and subject identifier(s) ~~retrieved at step (b)~~ so as to identify a predetermined set of queries and responses relating to the query; and

automatically submitting the queries comprising the predetermined set for processing according to decoding step (i).

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for processing queries, which queries may be expressed in natural language, the apparatus comprising:

decoding means for decoding a query into one or more semantically meaningful query elements;

accessing means for accessing data storage, which data storage includes at least one annotation element and one or more corresponding data entries;

identifying means for identifying annotation elements in accordance with the semantically meaningful query elements;

retrieval means for retrieving at least one data entry corresponding to each identified annotation element;

~~characterised by~~

a store arranged to store discourse criteria and preferences of the user identifying presentation of data entries; and

~~in that~~ the retrieval means ~~is~~being arranged to ~~identify discourse criteria and preferences corresponding to the retrieved data entries and to~~ present the retrieved data entries in accordance ~~therewith~~with at least one of a number of templates which determine the ordering of search results based on their annotation elements and which are classified according to the type of entity to be described.

9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein ~~the~~respective discourse criteria and/or preferences of the user are stored in the store ~~as templates, each of which gives a default~~and wherein ordering ~~for presentation~~of the data entries also depends upon the stored discourse criteria and/or preferences of the user.

10. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising user means for loading and modifying data entries in the data storage.

11. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the annotation elements are arranged in accordance with semantic relationships between annotation elements, or lexical relationships between annotation elements.

12. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 8, in which said decoding means includes a linguistic store comprising lexical, syntactic and discourse information and being accessible by the decoding means for deriving semantically meaningful elements corresponding to the query.

13. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 8, including means responsive to queries entered in a plurality of languages.

14. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 8, including linking means for linking at least one annotation to at least one data entry in the data store.

15. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the data entries include ~~all or any~~ at least one of text, hyperlinks, graphical data, pagelets, computer programs and/or video data.

16. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the queries are received from a user via input means.

17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the input means includes ~~both or either~~at least one of text input and/or speech input means.

18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

a further data store comprising a plurality of predetermined sets of queries, each of which has data identifying a property and a subject identifier relating thereto;

~~analysing~~analyzing means arranged to ~~analyse~~analyze the query so as to extract a subject of the query and a property of the query;

means arranged to compare the subject and property information extracted by the ~~analysing~~analyzing means with the property or properties and subject data stored in the further data store so as to identify a predetermined set of queries relating to the said query; and

means arranged to automatically submit the queries comprising the identified set for processing by the decoding means.

19. Cancelled.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program~~, or a suite of computer programs, comprising~~ storage medium having stored therein a set of instructions to cause ~~a~~at least one computer~~, or a suite of computers,~~ to perform the method according to claim 1.